

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 70
By Trail

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Judge James Weldon Buckner of Murfreesboro.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Judge James Weldon Buckner; and

WHEREAS, Judge James Buckner was an exemplary judge and a consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he was born in McMinnville on June 22, 1929 to attorney and state legislator George S. Buckner and Cleo Adcock Buckner; and

WHEREAS, upon his graduation from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, from which he received a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1950, Mr. Buckner began a private law practice with his father in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, he valiantly served his country in the United States Navy during the Korean Conflict aboard the U.S.S. Albany (CA-123), and he was thereafter honorably discharged; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, he received a Master of Laws degree from George Washington University; and

WHEREAS, James Buckner, in 1962, was appointed by Governor Buford Ellington as Judge of the General Sessions Court in Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, for thirty-six years Judge Buckner served with acumen and alacrity as Judge of the General Sessions Court in Rutherford County, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and the citizens of Rutherford County alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Judge Buckner retired in 1998, and, then in 2000, he was honored when the Rutherford County Judicial Building was re-named in deference to him, Judge John Rucker, and Judge Whitney Stegall; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the Rutherford-Cannon County Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, Judge Buckner was a member of the Methodist faith, and he held membership as a Shriner in Al Menah Temple of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, he was also a 32nd Degree York and Scottish Rites Mason, a Knight Templar, and a former Worshipful Master of the Mt. Moriah Lodge Number 18 of the Free and Accepted Masons of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Judge James Buckner was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Judge Buckner enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Frances Edwards Ellis Buckner, whom he married in 1955, and he was the proud parent of Katheryn Weldon Buckner Hoover; and

WHEREAS, he is also survived by one brother, Jean T. Buckner; three grandchildren, James Weldon Buckner "Chip," Mary Frances, and Andrew Jarman Hoover; and two step-daughters, Judith Ellis Presley and Joanne Ellis Hollingsworth; and

WHEREAS, Judge Buckner leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional judiciary and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Judge James Weldon Buckner, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Judge James Weldon Buckner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.